

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Berch for giving the opportunity for an in person interview at the USPTO on August 22, 2003. During the interview, an agreement was reached with respect to the use of the terms "acid" and "protodesilylation."

35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 6 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner states that the expansion from "weak acid" to "acid" in the claim constitutes new matter.

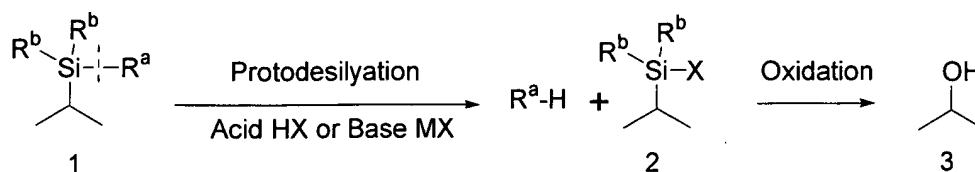
Applicants respectfully submit that line 11 on page 18 of the present application provides descriptive support for the use of "acid" in the transformation of a primary alcohol to a MOP protecting group. Thus, the term "acid" used in current claims is not new matter, and Applicants respectfully request that the § 112, first paragraph rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite because the term "protodesilylation" is not clear. Applicants respectfully submit that the term "protodesilylation" is clearly defined and well known in the art.

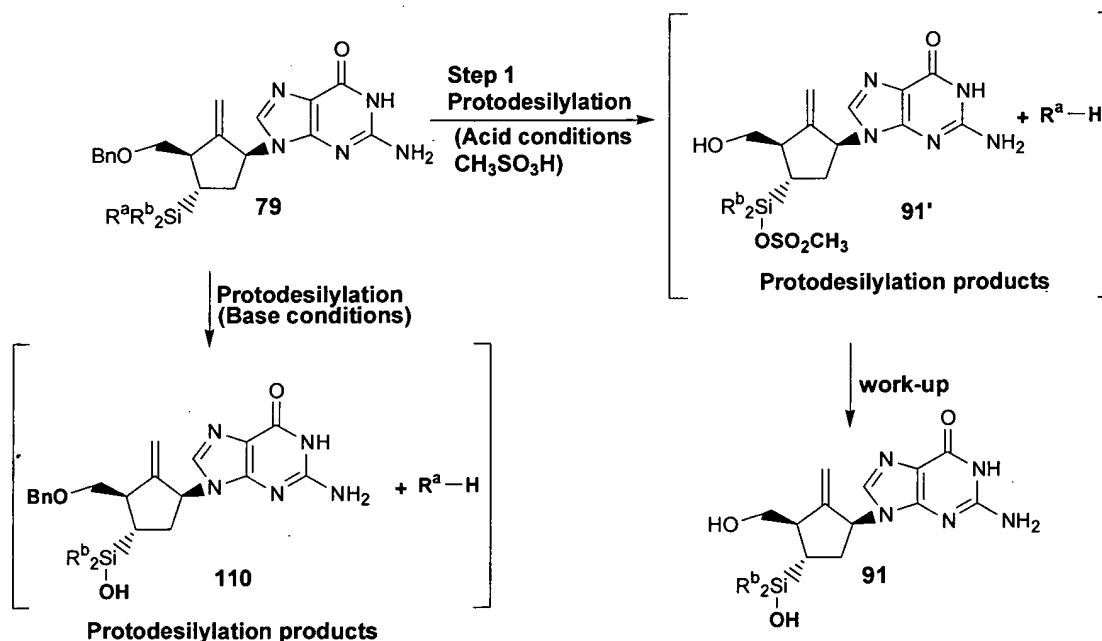
In reference to Scheme 1, the term protodesilylation means the breaking of Si-R^a bond with the formation of R^a-H, where R^a is phenyl or allyl, and R^b is alkyl. The phrase "proto" is used because the addition of proton (H⁺) to R^a occurs here. In addition, the phrase "desilylation" is used because of the removal of Si from R^a. Generally, reagents used to achieve protodesilylation include acid or base. Under acidic condition (HX), protodesilylation produces R^a-H and intermediate **2**, wherein X is acid counter anion such as Cl⁻, MeSO³⁻, etc. and is converted to -OH upon aqueous work up. Under basic condition (MX, M is Na, K, etc., and X is OH, OtBu, etc.), M is replaced with H after work-up to give same R^a-H, along with the intermediate **2** wherein X is OH.

Scheme 1



Scheme 2 further demonstrates the use of the term protodesilylation in the present application. When an acid such as CH₃SO₃H is used, the protodesilylation step generates R^a-H and intermediate **91'**, where the acid counter anion -OSO₂CH₃ replaces R^a, and the counter anion is subsequently transformed to -OH upon aqueous work-up to afford silanol **91**. Similarly, when a base such as KOH or NaOH is used, the protodesilylation step provides R^a-H and silanol **110** by replacing R^a with the basic OH group.

Scheme 2



In summary, Applicants have provided schemes showing the protodesilylation process that covers both the initial cleavage of Si-C bond (under either acid or base condition) and conversion of the intermediate to the silanol if needed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph rejection.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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